

Graduate School Timeline

NOTE: Students interested in a health related program should check with the Health Professions Advisory Committee for specific timeline information: healthprofessions.lafayette.edu. Students interested in law-related programs should visit prelaw.lafayette.edu for timeline and other helpful information.

Six Months Prior to Applying – Spring of Junior Year

- Research area of interest, institutions, and programs.
- Begin making outreach to faculty at programs of interest. Speak with your *Gateway* Counselor and/or faculty advisors for guidance with this process.
- Talk to your *Gateway* Counselor and faculty advisor about application requirements.
- Register and prepare for appropriate graduate admissions tests.
- Begin compiling a list of faculty from whom you will request recommendations.

Three Months Prior to Applying – Summer After Your Junior Year

- Take required admissions tests.
- Request and review application materials.
- Visit institutions of interest.
- Write your application essay or personal statement and have several people review it.
- Check on application deadlines and rolling admissions policies. Be sure not to miss any! (For some programs, applying early can enhance your chances of being accepted.)
- For medical, dental, osteopathy, podiatry, or law school, you may need to register for the national application or data assembly service most programs use.

A Year Prior to Matriculating – Fall of Senior Year

- Obtain letters of recommendation. Give faculty at least one month's notice.
- Take graduate admissions test, if you haven't already.
- Send in completed application materials.

NOTE: To maximize candidacy and opportunities for funding, it is advisable to apply at least one month prior to the application deadline, and for PhD programs even earlier.

Six Months Prior to Matriculating – Spring of Senior Year

- Register for Graduate and Professional School Financial Aid Service (GAPSFAS) and/or complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), if required.
- Check with all institutions before the deadline to make sure your file is complete.
- Visit institutions that accept you, if you haven't already and schedule an interview.
- Send a deposit to your institution of choice.
- Notify other colleges and universities that accepted you of your decision, so that they can admit students on their waiting list.
- Send thank-you notes to people who wrote your recommendation letters, informing them of your success.
- Let Career Services know your decision.

CONGRATULATIONS!

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